



DC  
COMICS™

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**THE NEW 52!**

**SUPERMAN®**

# **ACTION** COMICS®

**THIS LOOKS  
LIKE A JOB FOR  
SUPERMAN...**

**...OF EARTH  
23!**

**GRANT  
MORRISON**

**GENE  
HA**

JUL 2012

RATED T TEEN

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**COMBO-PACK**

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**Digital Copy  
Inside!**









# THE CURSE OF SUPERMAN

GRANT MORRISON  
WRITER

GENE HA ARTIST ART LYON COLORIST

PATRICK BROSSAU LETTERER GENE HA & ART LYON COVER

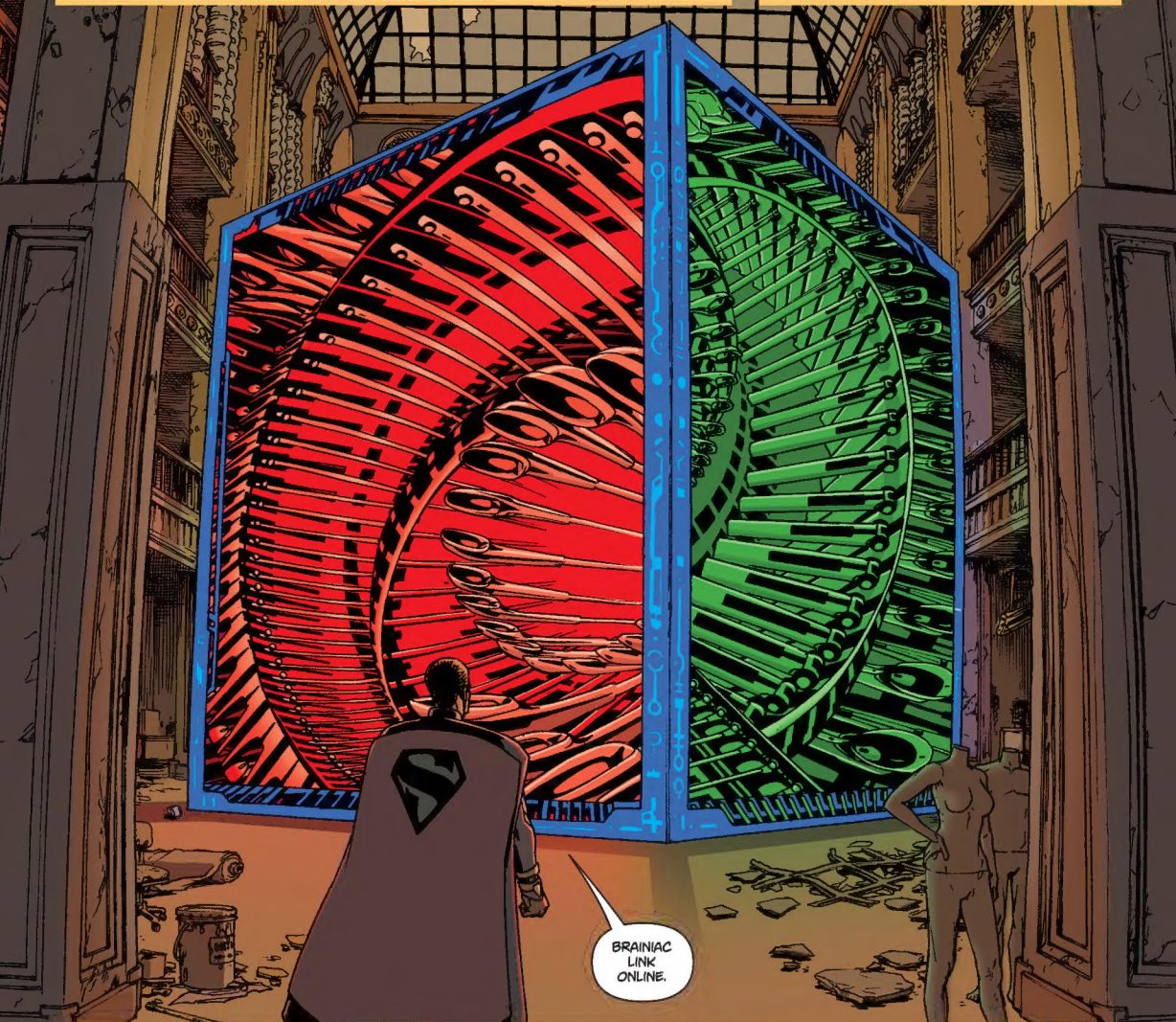
RAGS MORALES & BRAD ANDERSON VARIANT COVER

WIL MOSS ASSOCIATE EDITOR MATT IDELSON EDITOR

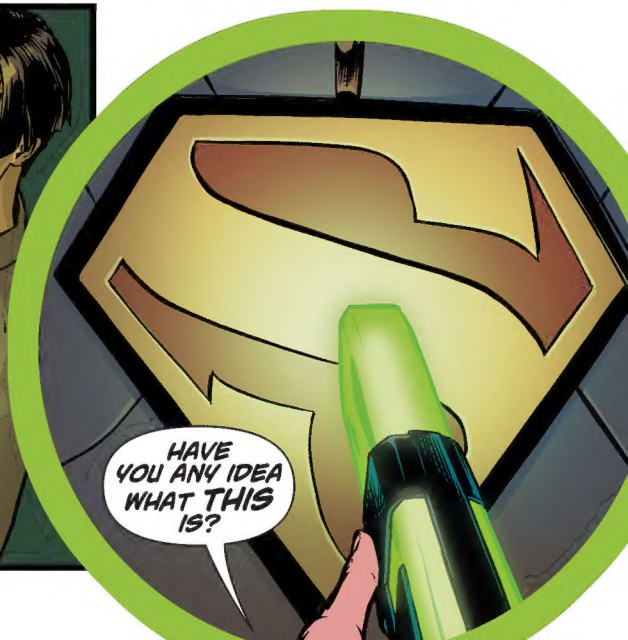
SUPERMAN CREATED BY JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER









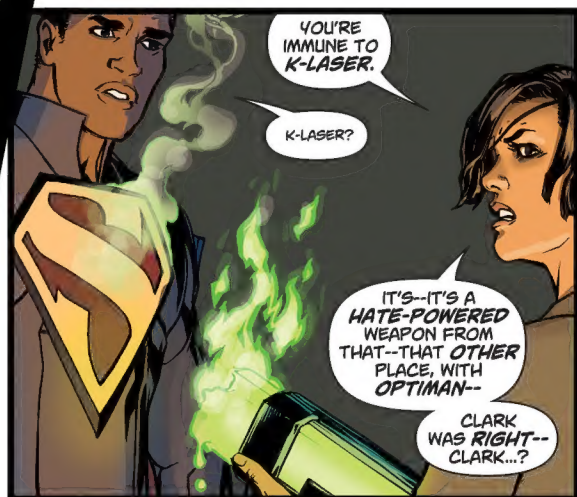






BACK!

...I...



YOU'RE IMMUNE TO K-LASER.

K-LASER?

IT'S--IT'S A HATE-POWERED WEAPON FROM THAT--THAT OTHER PLACE, WITH OPTIMAN--

CLARK WAS RIGHT--CLARK...?



NNNN

LLLLUHH-LUHH

CLARK!

OH, JIMMY!

OH NO, NO, NO!



JIMMY'S DEAD.

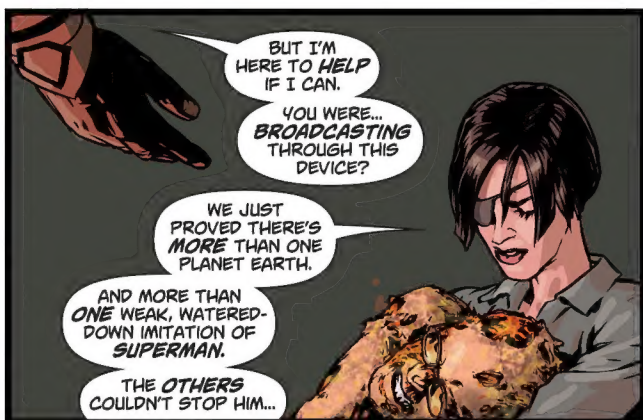
THEY DIDN'T DESERVE THIS.

THIS WASN'T SUPPOSED TO HAPPEN.

I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT'S GOING ON HERE.

I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU TRIED TO SHOOT ME.

I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE--



BUT I'M HERE TO HELP IF I CAN.

YOU WERE... BROADCASTING THROUGH THIS DEVICE?

WE JUST PROVED THERE'S MORE THAN ONE PLANET EARTH.

AND MORE THAN ONE WEAK, WATERED-DOWN IMITATION OF SUPERMAN.

THE OTHERS COULDN'T STOP HIM...



WHAT MAKES YOU SO DIFFERENT?



ONCE, NOT SO LONG AGO, IN A FARAWAY STAR SYSTEM, A WISE AND ANCIENT CIVILIZATION DIED, LEAVING BARELY A TRACE OF ITS PASSING.

THEIR WORLD WAS CALLED KRYPTON, AND GREATEST OF ALL ITS MIGHTY CITIES WAS THE SCIENCE-CAPITAL JANDRA-LA ON VATHLO ISLAND IN THE GREEN DANDAHU OCEAN.

IT WAS THERE, AS THE PLANET WAS RIPPED APART IN A VIOLENT CATAclysm, THAT TWO DESPERATE YOUNG SCIENTISTS NAMED JOREL AND LARA PERFORMED THEIR LAST, MOST DARING EXPERIMENT TOGETHER.

UNABLE TO SAVE THEMSELVES FROM KRYPTON'S APOCALYPSE, THEY PLACED THEIR ONLY SON, KALEL, IN A PROTOTYPE ROCKET AND SHOT HIM ACROSS THE EMPTY GULFS OF SPACE WITH LITTLE MORE THAN A PRAYER TO GUIDE HIS INCREDIBLE VOYAGE.

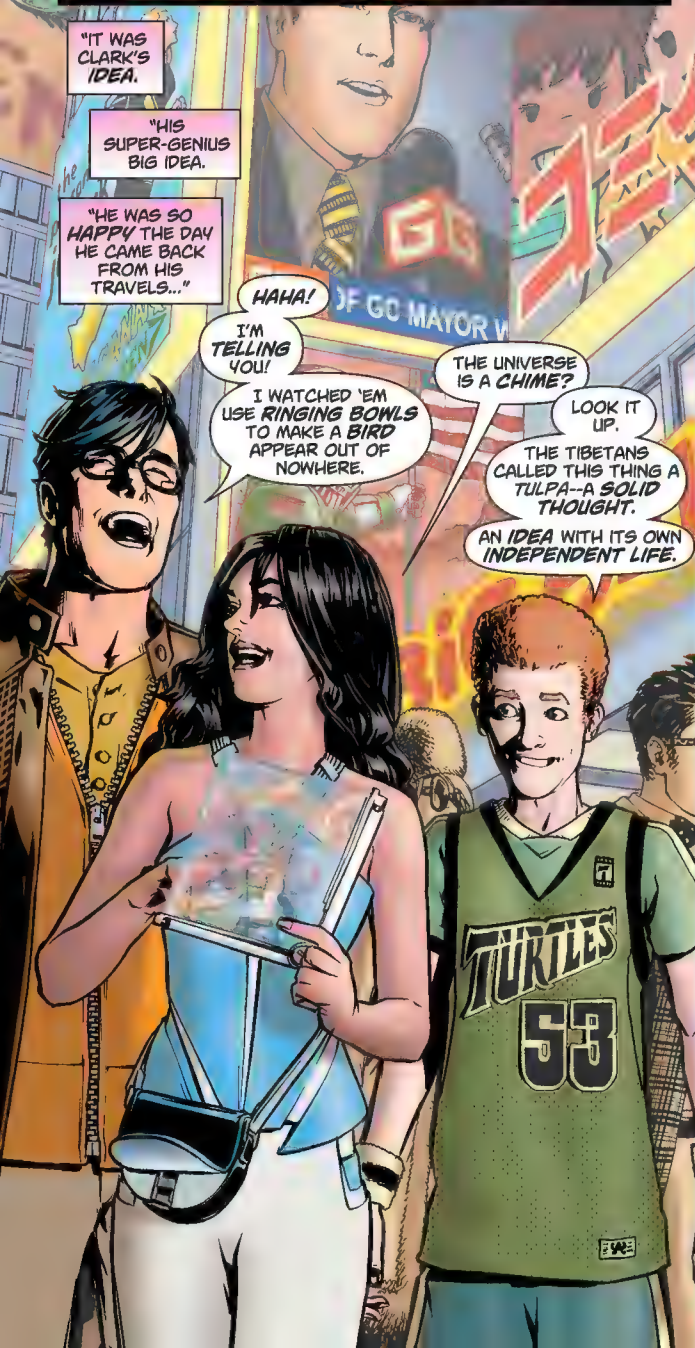
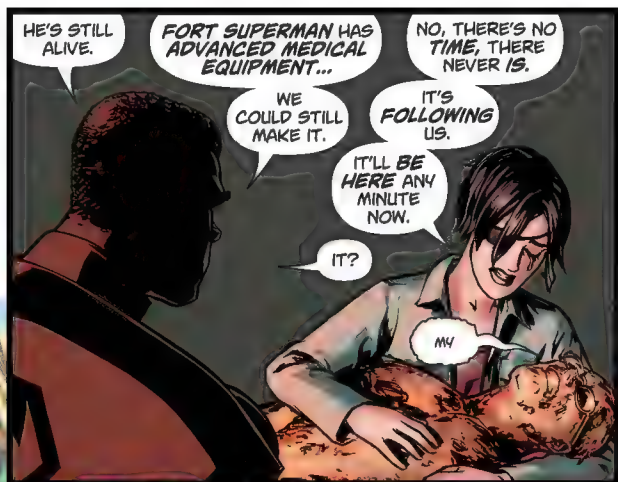
ADOPTED BY A POOR BUT KINDLY COUPLE, THE SEED OF KRYPTON TOOK ROOT IN FERTILE ALIEN SOIL, AND GREW TALL AND STRONG AND PROUD.

NOW, DISGUISED AS UNITED STATES PRESIDENT CALVIN ELLIS, KALEL OF KRYPTON FIGHTS A NEVER-ENDING BATTLE FOR TRUTH, JUSTICE, LIBERTY AND EQUALITY AS...

AND SO AFTER A TIME CAME THE LAST SON OF LOST KRYPTON--TO THE PLANET EARTH!

**SUPERMAN**









THESE DRESSINGS SHOULD HELP FOR NOW.

I'M SORRY.  
GO ON.

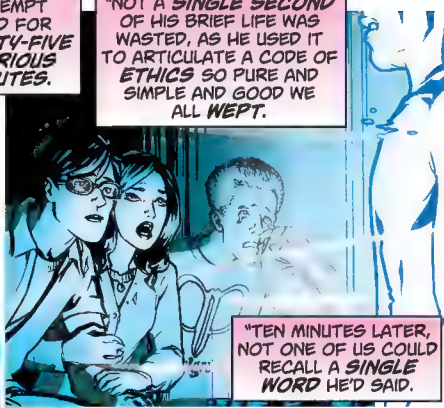
FIRST WE TRIED TO IMAGINE A CHAMPION, A THOUGHT-POWERED REDEEMER CAPABLE OF SAVING THE WORLD.

A MADE-UP MESSIAH.

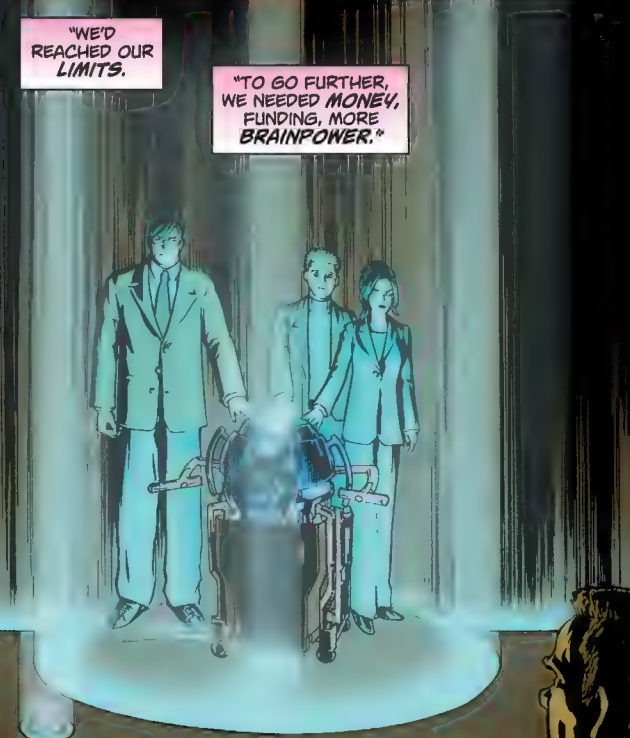
I CALLED OUR CREATION SUPERMAN, AFTER NIETZSCHE AND GEORGE BERNARD SHAW.

"OUR FIRST ATTEMPT LIVED FOR TWENTY-FIVE GLORIOUS MINUTES.

"NOT A SINGLE SECOND OF HIS BRIEF LIFE WAS WASTED, AS HE USED IT TO ARTICULATE A CODE OF ETHICS SO PURE AND SIMPLE AND GOOD WE ALL WEPT.



"TEN MINUTES LATER, NOT ONE OF US COULD RECALL A SINGLE WORD HE'D SAID.



"WE'D REACHED OUR LIMITS.

"TO GO FURTHER, WE NEEDED MONEY, FUNDING, MORE BRAINPOWER."



UM.

WHAT'S IMPORTANT TO ME IS THE OPPORTUNITY TO CHANGE LIVES AND INSPIRE PEOPLE.

WE KNOW WE'RE ON TO SOMETHING BIGGER AND MORE ENDURING THAN ACTORS OR ROCK STARS.

WE KNOW WE'RE ON TO SOMETHING BIG.

WE WANT TO RETAIN DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS TO THE SUPERMAN BRAND IDEA.

IT'S IMPORTANT THAT WE WORK TOGETHER TO CREATE AN INSPIRATIONAL FIGURE.



INTERESTING.

HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT WHAT THIS CURIOUS INVENTION OF YOURS MIGHT BE WORTH?

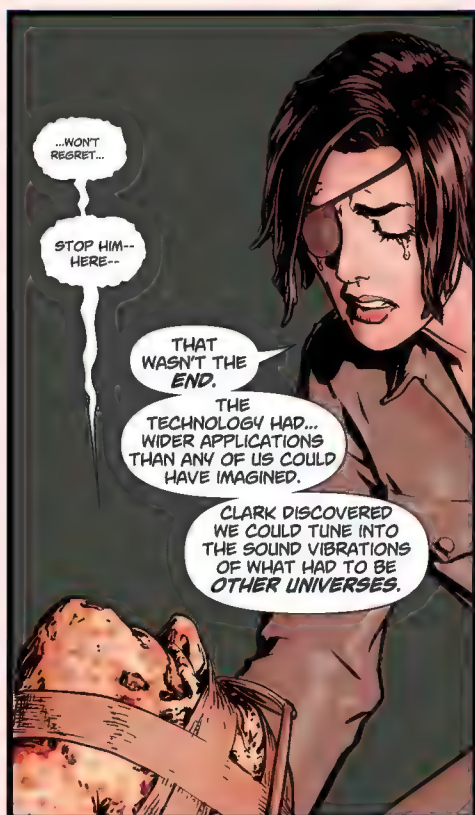
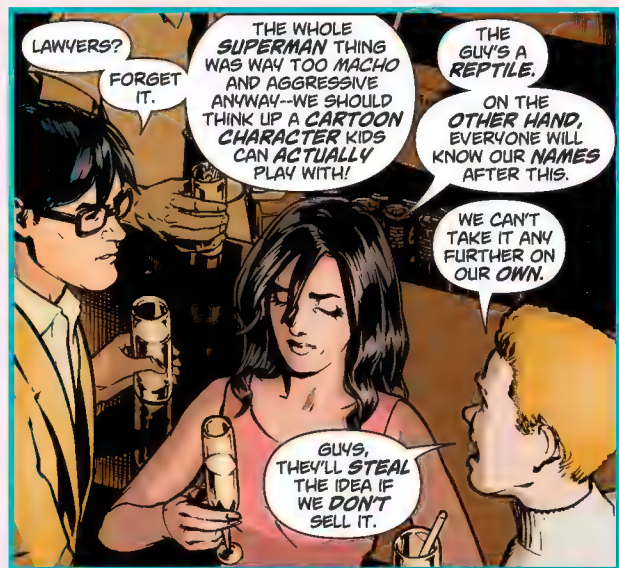


RIGHTS?

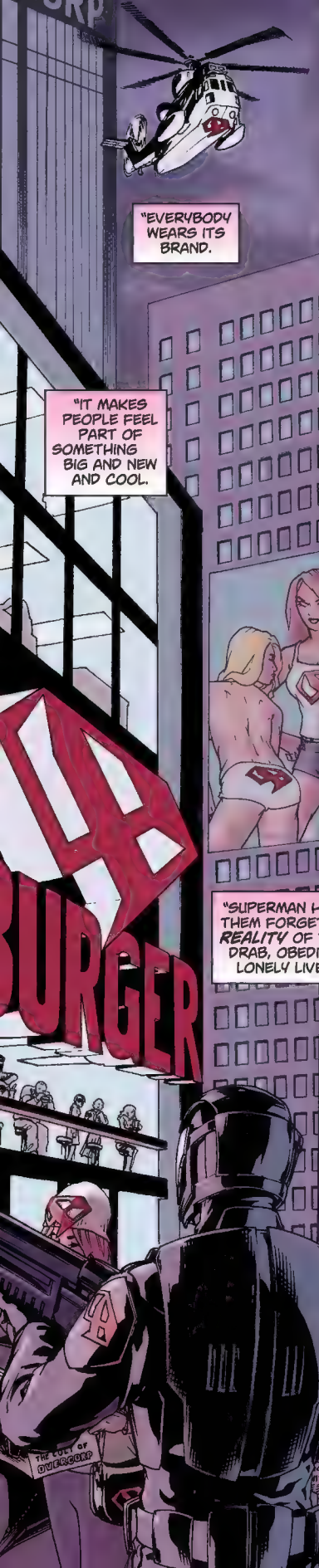
BUT WE'D BE TAKING ALL THE RISKS.

BUT THAT'S WHY WE HAVE LAWYERS, ISN'T IT?









"EVERYBODY WEARS ITS BRAND."

"IT MAKES PEOPLE FEEL PART OF SOMETHING BIG AND NEW AND COOL."

"SUPERMAN HELPS THEM FORGET THE REALITY OF THEIR DRAB, OBEDIENT, LONELY LIVES."



THE THREE OF US TRIED TO RUN, BUT IT FOLLOWED US ACROSS WORLDS. I WATCHED IT KILL AND EAT A SUPERMAN LOOK-ALIKE CALLED OPTIMAN.

MEN CALLED FLASHLIGHT, THE IRON KNIGHT, RED RACER-- THEY FOUGHT TO SAVE HIM AND FAILED--



WHAT IS THAT THING?



"--AND THEN THE LITTLE PEOPLE..."



YOUR FRIEND IS TRYING TO SPEAK.

...THE SUPERMAN...

...THE CURSE...OF SUPERMAN...





...HE BECOMES ANYTHING YOU WANT... HIM... TO BE...

...OUR WORLD... WANTED THAT...

I WON'T RUN ANYMORE.

I CAN'T RUN.

LEAVE THIS TO ME.



...I'M SORRY, CLARK...

YOU HANG ON.

I'LL GET BACK WHEN I'M DONE.

MR. PRESIDENT, THIS IS COURTNEY, YOUR LONG-SUFFERING PERSONAL ASSISTANT.



THE HOSTAGE SITUATION IN LIBYA HAS ERUPTED.

WHERE THE HELL ARE YOU... SIR?

BAD TIMING, COURTNEY.

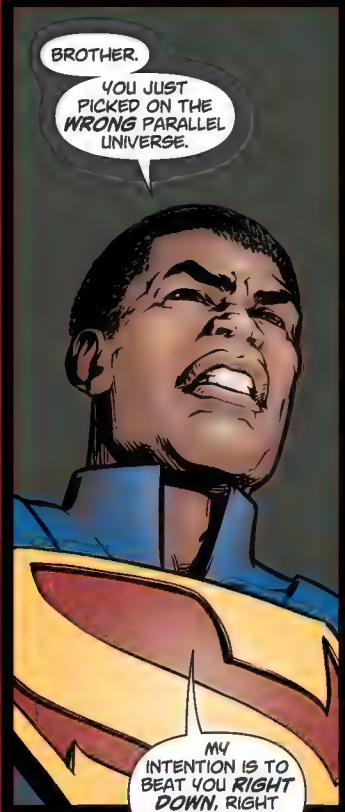


ANOTHER FAKE! A TWISTED REPLICA!

MY ENEMIES THINK I'M TRAPPED IN A MAZE OF REALITIES!

THEY'LL WISH THEY'D NEVER LED ME HERE!

SOUNDS GOOD WITH THAT BASSO PROFUNDO, DOESN'T IT?



BROTHER.

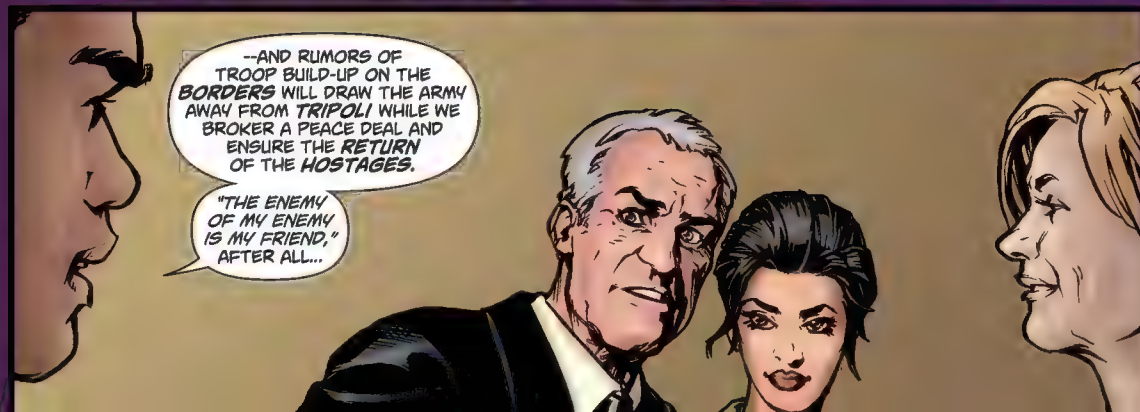
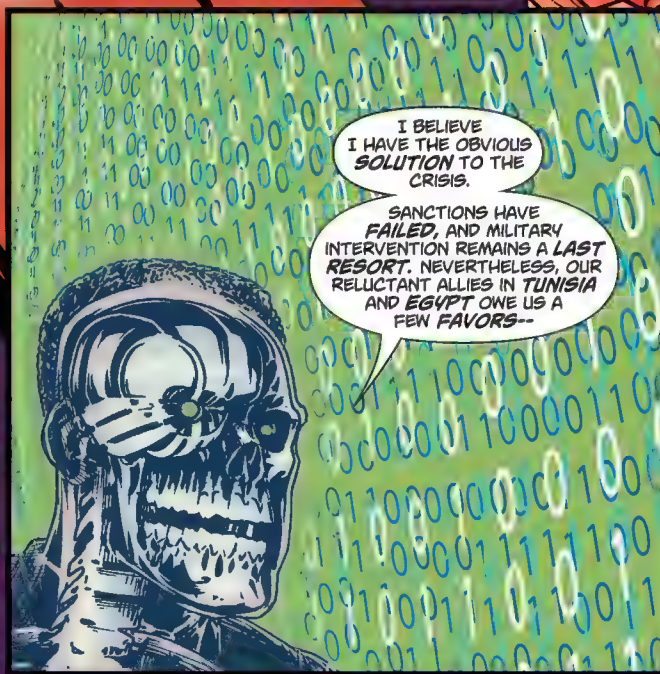
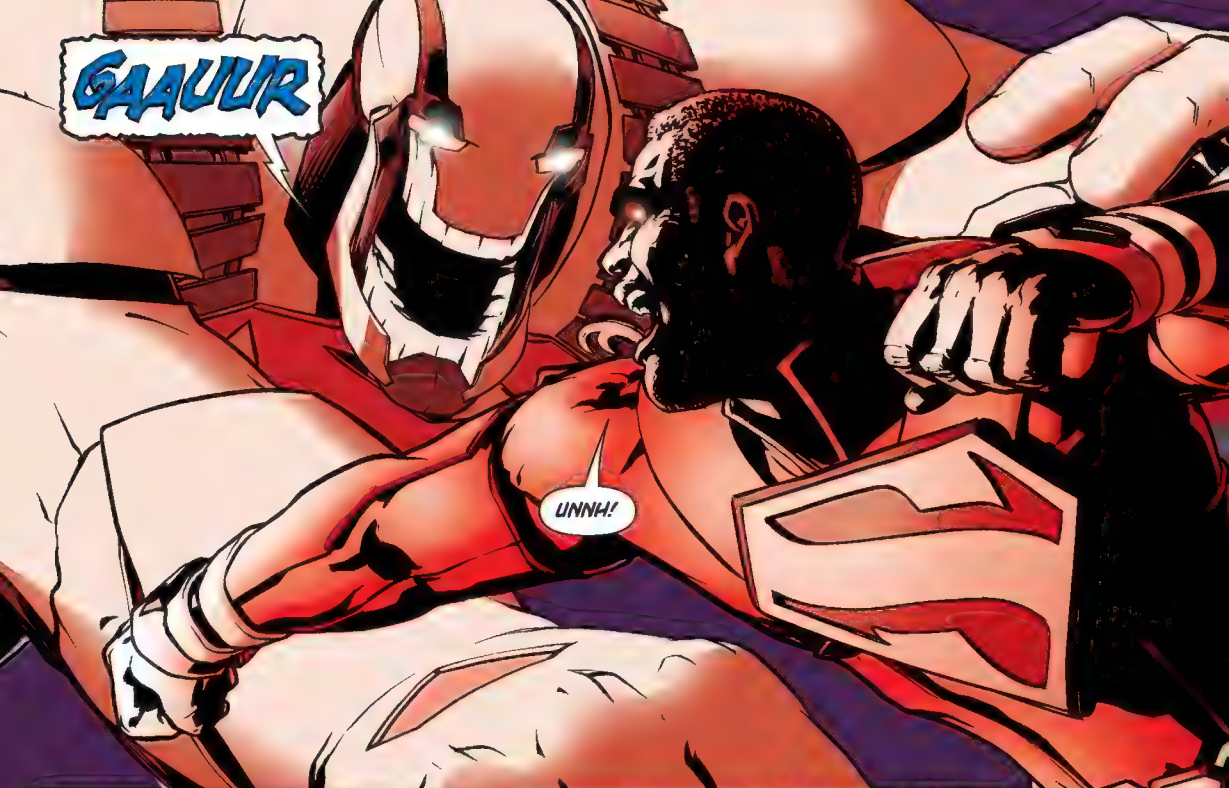
YOU JUST PICKED ON THE WRONG PARALLEL UNIVERSE.

MY INTENTION IS TO BEAT YOU RIGHT DOWN, RIGHT HERE, RIGHT NOW.





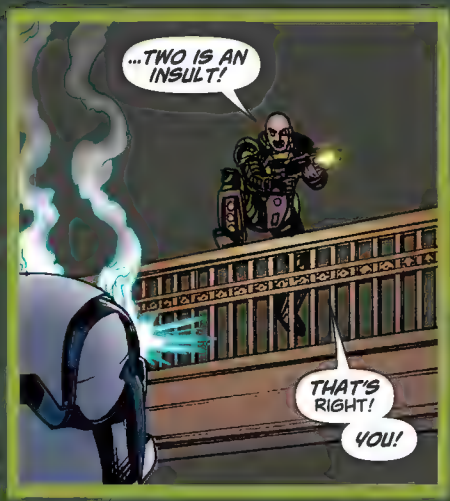












...TWO IS AN INSULT!

THAT'S RIGHT!

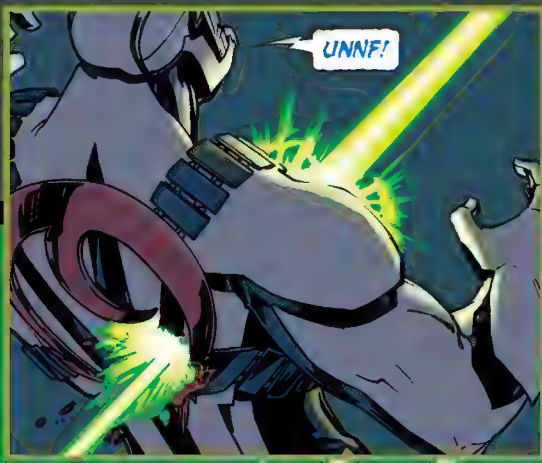
YOU!

ALL MY ADULT LIFE I'VE DREAMED OF A MOMENT LIKE THIS.



YOU'RE THE RAW ESSENCE, THE BEAST IN SUPERMAN!

THE SMUG FASCIST BULLY BOY I SAW THERE ALL ALONG!



UNNF!



URR

OUTER HIDE ADAPTED FOR K-BLAST.

IS THAT SO?

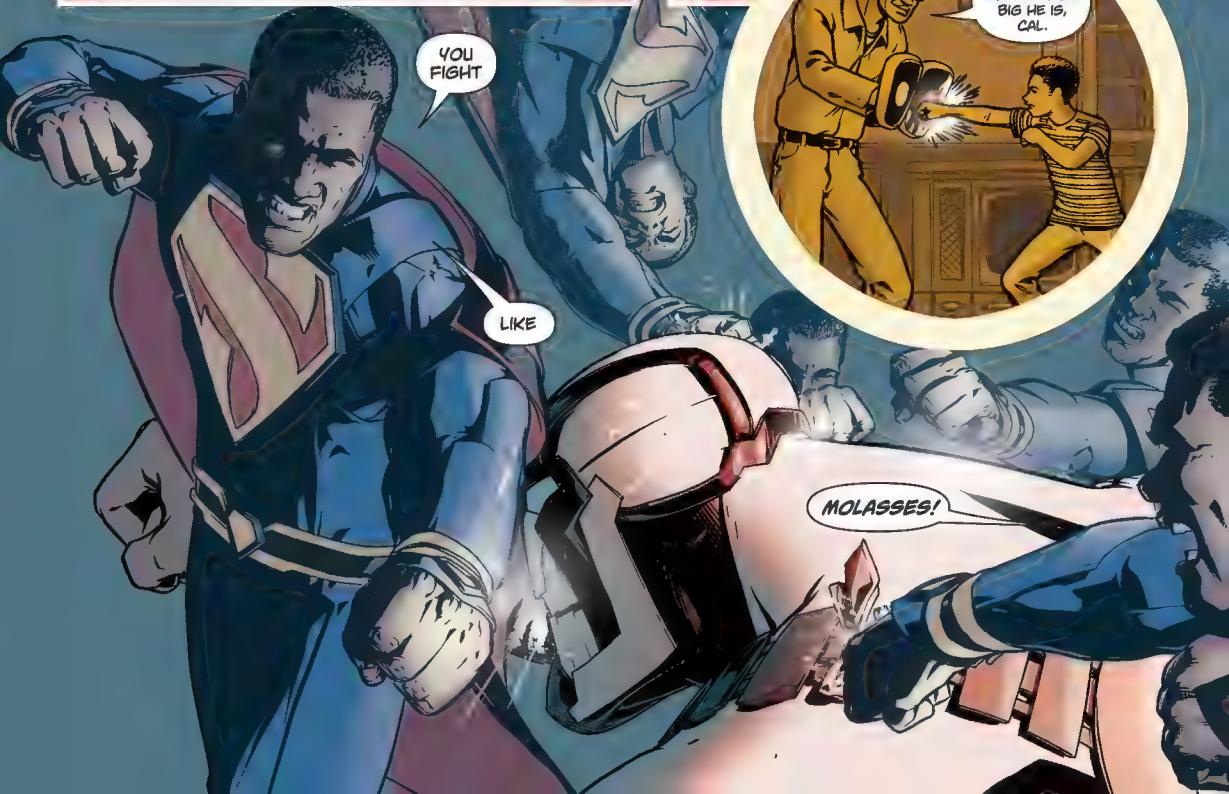
OUTER HIDE?



GRRRAHH!

IS THAT WHAT YOU THINK!









HNTT!



THE TRANSMATTER  
ARRAY, SUPERMAN.

YOU CAN  
USE IT TO KILL  
HIM!

AND KILL  
YOURSELF, TOO,  
WHILE YOU'RE  
AT IT!

YOU KNOW  
HOW I FEEL  
ABOUT KILLING,  
LUTHOR.

BUT  
MAYBE...



URRR!

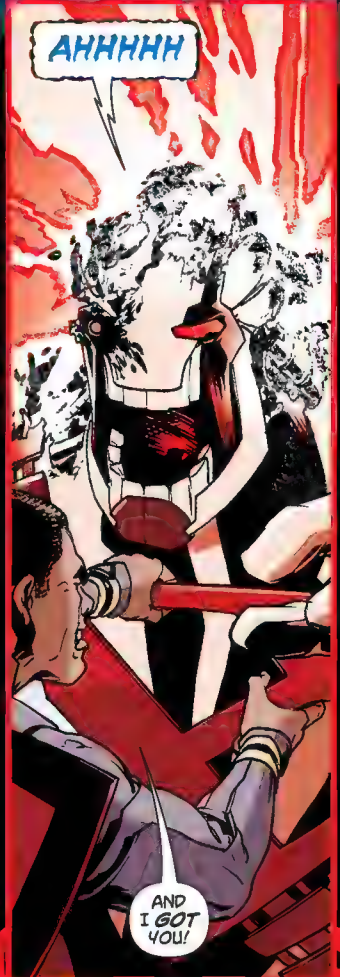
I TAKE YOU  
WITH ME!

...TO THE HELL  
WHERE I WAS  
BORN!

I'VE HAD  
BETTER  
OFFERS.

SUPERMAN  
BECOMES  
WHATEVER YOU  
WANT HIM TO  
BE, HUH?

RIGHT NOW  
I WANT YOU  
LOCKED UP  
TIGHT!



AHHHHH

AND  
I GOT  
YOU!



CAPTURED LIKE A  
GHOST, SUSPENDED  
BETWEEN  
WAVELENGTHS.



TUNED  
OUT.

WHAT WERE  
YOU THINKING  
WHEN YOU MADE  
THIS THING,  
LUTHOR?





HI.  
YOU GOT MY  
MESSAGE.



I SUMMONED  
THE JUSTICE  
LEAGUE IN ITS  
GLORY.

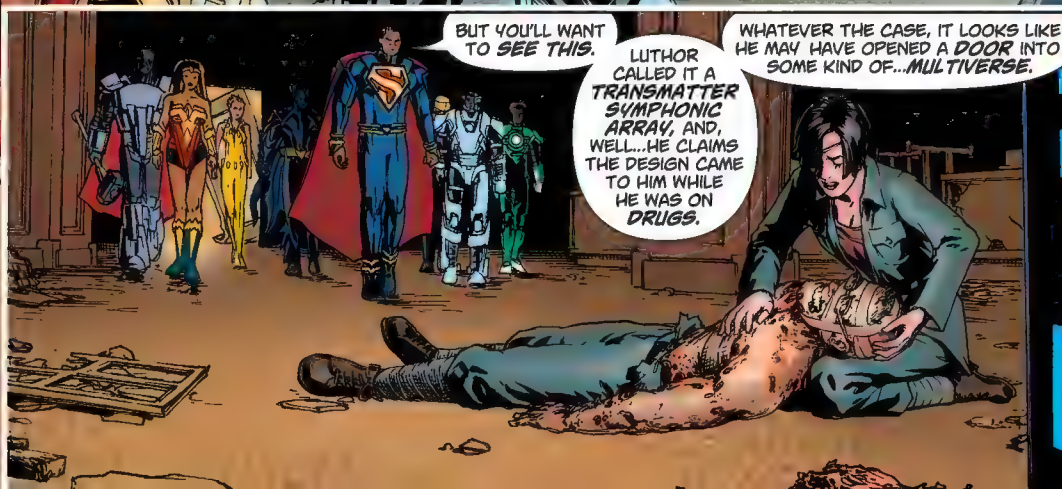
THE PREEMINENT  
SUPER-WARRIORS  
OF OUR AGE AWAIT  
YOUR FURTHER  
INSTRUCTION,  
SUPERMAN.

SOME  
HAVE BEEN  
ON DUTY ALL  
NIGHT...

AH.

I...UH...I  
MAY NOT  
NEED YOU  
AFTER  
ALL.

MY ARCH  
ENEMY AND  
I JUST CAGED  
A DEMON-  
SUPERMAN FROM  
AN ALTERNATE  
UNIVERSE.

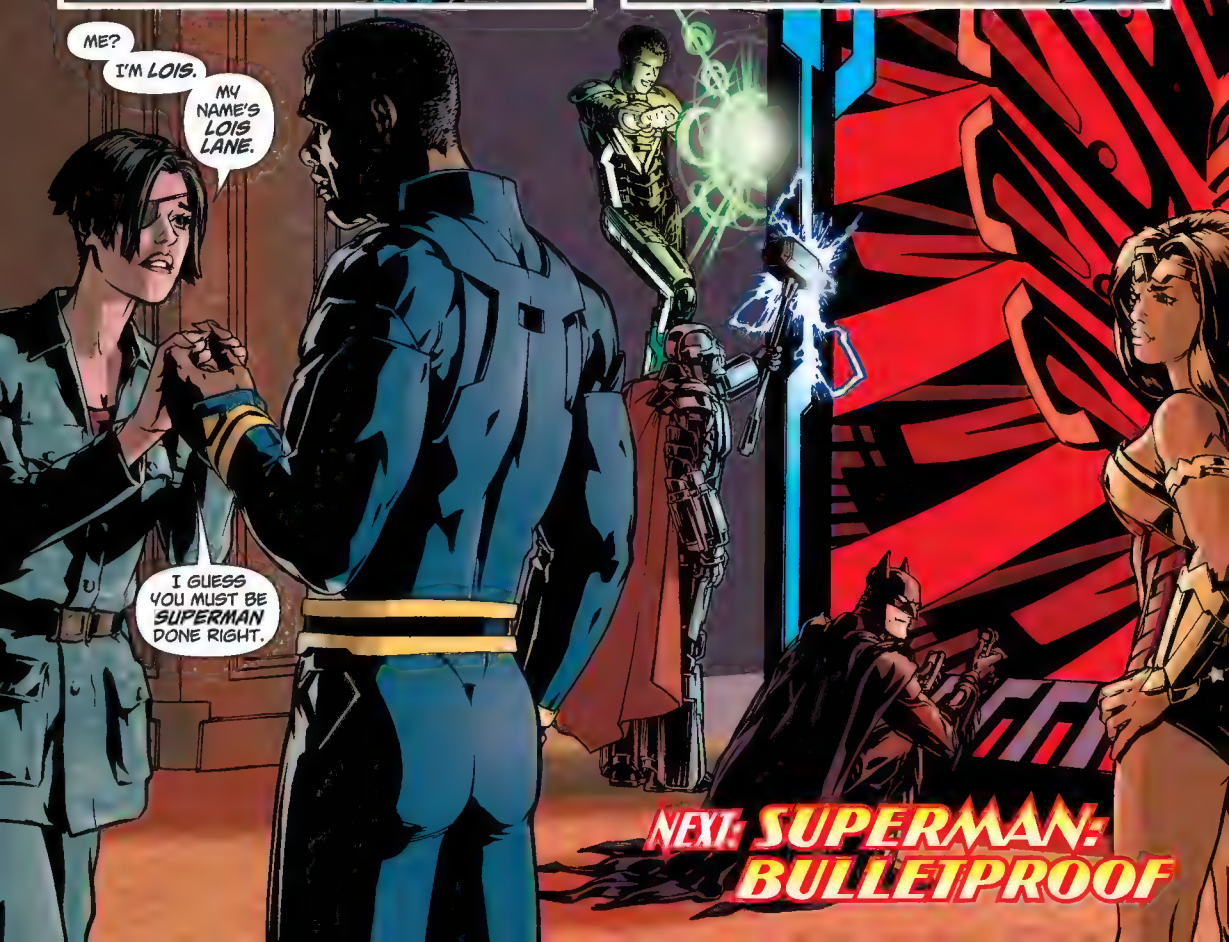
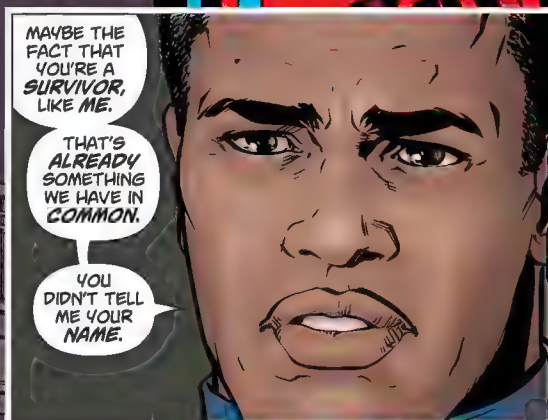
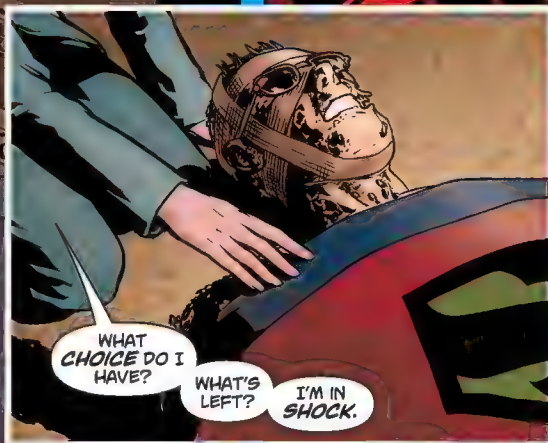


BUT YOU'LL WANT  
TO SEE THIS.

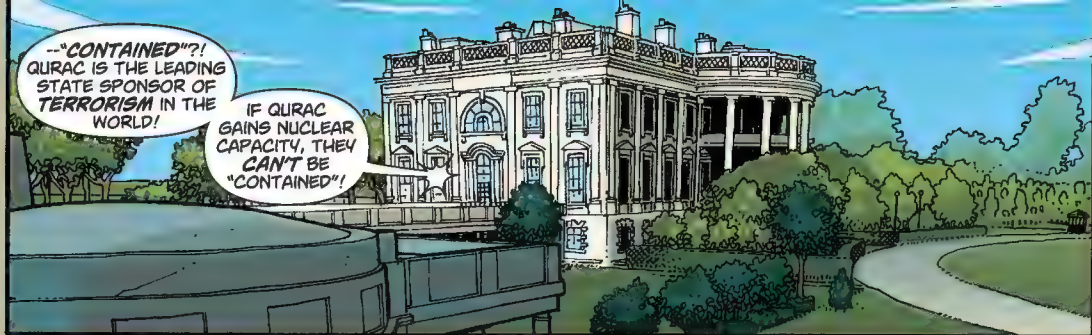
LUTHOR  
CALLED IT A  
TRANSMATTER  
SYMPHONIC  
ARRAY, AND,  
WELL...HE CLAIMS  
THE DESIGN CAME  
TO HIM WHILE  
HE WAS ON  
DRUGS.

WHATEVER THE CASE, IT LOOKS LIKE  
HE MAY HAVE OPENED A DOOR INTO  
SOME KIND OF...MULTIVERSE.









--"CONTAINED"?!  
QURAC IS THE LEADING  
STATE SPONSOR OF  
TERRORISM IN THE  
WORLD!

IF QURAC  
GAINS NUCLEAR  
CAPACITY, THEY  
CAN'T BE  
"CONTAINED"!



YOU MAY BE RIGHT,  
GENERAL HEYWOOD.  
BUT, LIKE IT OR NOT,  
OUR BEST INTEL SAYS  
THEY'RE WELL ON  
THEIR WAY.

WELL,  
IF YOUR BOYS  
IN THE C.I.A.  
ARE RIGHT,  
TOM--



--WE HAVE TO  
STOP THEM  
NOW!

BEFORE  
IT'S TOO  
LATE!

THAT MIGHT  
NOT GIVE US MUCH OF  
A WINDOW. FROM WHAT  
WE KNOW OF QURAC'S  
CURRENT TECH, THEY  
COULD BE OPERATIONAL  
WITHIN A YEAR.



NOT NECESSARILY, DOCTOR  
IRONS. THE PRESIDENT'S TALKING  
TO THE QURAC! PRESIDENT  
RIGHT NOW.

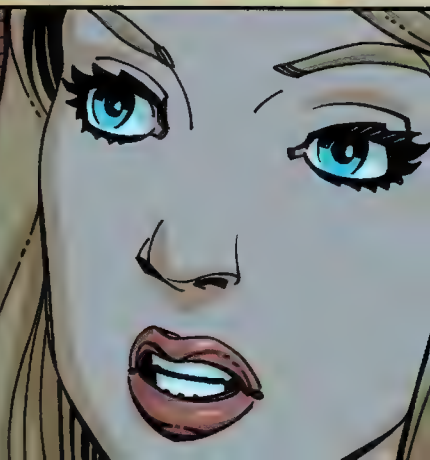
OH, SPARE ME  
THE PRESS CORPS  
SPIN. WHAT GOOD CAN  
TALKING DO? HARRAT'S  
A FANATIC!



I DON'T KNOW, MAYBE  
VICKI'S RIGHT. AFTER ALL,  
PRESIDENT ELLIS IS THE  
ONE WHO BALANCED THE  
BUDGET, SOLVED THE  
LIBYA CRISIS...

WE'RE TALKING  
ABOUT A MAN WITH THE  
HIGHEST APPROVAL RATING  
SINCE PRESIDENT RICKARD  
BACK IN THE '70s--AND  
HE EARNED IT.

BEFORE  
WE RUSH INTO  
ANYTHING  
DRASTIC--





# EXECUTIVE POWER

"--LET'S AT  
LEAST GIVE HIM  
A CHANCE."

PRESIDENT-  
FOR-LIFE HARRAT  
IS COMING TO THE  
PHONE, MISTER  
PRESIDENT.

THANK YOU,  
COURTNEY. PLEASE  
SEE THAT I'M NOT  
INTERRUPTED FOR  
ANY REASON.



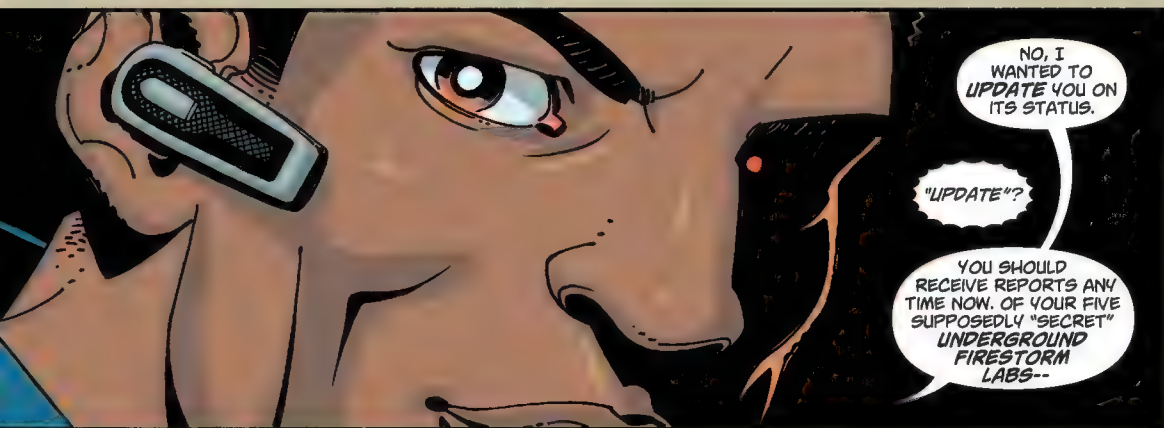
**SHOLLY FISCH • Writer**  
**CULLY HAMNER • Artist**

**DAVE McCAIG • Colorist** | **CARLOS M. MANGUAL • Letterer**  
**WIL MOSS • Associate Editor** | **MATT IDELSON • Editor**  
**SUPERMAN** created by **JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER**













--ALTHOUGH  
I'M AFRAID THAT  
ONE IS NO LONGER  
FUNCTIONAL  
EITHER.





TH-THIS IS AN OUTRAGE!

YES, ALL OF YOUR PEOPLE MADE IT OUT SAFELY. THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONCERN.

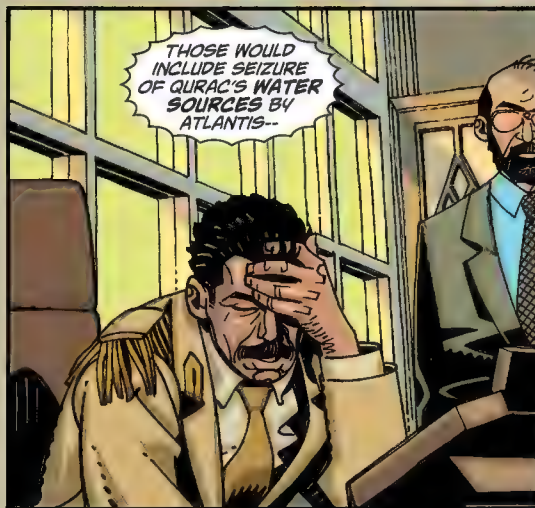
IT'S AN ACT OF WAR!

I DON'T THINK SO.



TO BE AN ACT OF WAR, YOU'D HAVE TO ADMIT THE LABS EXISTED IN THE FIRST PLACE.

AND BEFORE YOU START THINKING ABOUT TRYING TO REBUILD, I SHOULD MENTION THAT I'VE ALREADY SECURED AGREEMENT FROM OUR ALLIES FOR FURTHER SANCTIONS.



THOSE WOULD INCLUDE SEIZURE OF QURAC'S WATER SOURCES BY ATLANTIS--



--NATURAL DISASTERS COURTESY OF MARKOVIA--



--AND AN INVADING AMAZON ARMY FROM THEMYSKIRA.









AND THAT'S THAT. I'D BETTER GET BACK BEFORE SOMEONE REALIZES I'M NOT IN MY OFFICE.

BRAINIAC CAN ONLY COVER FOR ME FOR SO LONG.

YOU TRULY ARE A FASCINATING MASS OF CONTRADICTIONS, CAL.



WELL, I HAD TO OFFER HARRAT A CHANCE...

NO, I MEANT ALL OF THIS SUBTERFUGE, CONCEALING YOUR ACTIONS.

AS SUPERMAN, YOU STAND FOR TRUTH AND JUSTICE. YET YOU HAVE NO PROBLEM LYING TO THE ENTIRE WORLD ABOUT WHAT YOU DO AND WHO YOU ARE.

MY SECRET IDENTITY? THAT'S NOTHING NEW IN OUR LINE OF WORK, NUBIA.



TRUE. BUT YOU MUST REALIZE THAT IT MEANS SOMETHING DIFFERENT FOR YOU NOW.

WHEN YOU TOOK OFFICE, YOU SWORE TO UPHOLD YOUR NATION'S LAWS.

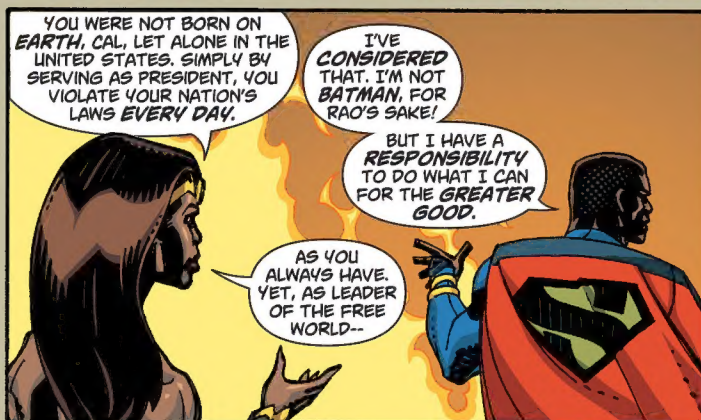
I CANNOT IMAGINE HOW MANY INTERNATIONAL LAWS WE'VE VIOLATED TODAY.



WHAT, YOU THINK I SHOULD HAVE LET HARRAT HAVE NUCLEAR WEAPONS?

DON'T BE RIDICULOUS. THE MAN'S A MADMAN.

HOWEVER, YOU HAVE SET YOURSELF OUTSIDE THE LAW AS WELL.



YOU WERE NOT BORN ON EARTH, CAL, LET ALONE IN THE UNITED STATES. SIMPLY BY SERVING AS PRESIDENT, YOU VIOLATE YOUR NATION'S LAWS EVERY DAY.

I'VE CONSIDERED THAT. I'M NOT BATMAN, FOR RAO'S SAKE!

BUT I HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO DO WHAT I CAN FOR THE GREATER GOOD.

AS YOU ALWAYS HAVE. YET, AS LEADER OF THE FREE WORLD--



--CALVIN ELLIS' ACTIONS NOW AFFECT EVEN MORE PEOPLE THAN SUPERMAN'S. TELL ME, WHAT HAPPENS WHEN, ONE DAY, YOU DO WHAT YOU THINK IS THE "GREATER GOOD"--

--BUT THE WORLD SEES IT DIFFERENTLY?

END...?



KEITH GIFFEN DAN JURGENS  
JESUS MERINO

# SUPERMAN™

THE  
**NEW CREATIVE TEAM**  
BEGINS IN **ISSUE #7**

**DC COMICS**  
THE NEW 52

MARCH 2012

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# ZOONNE

